



HF Happenings



June

25 to 27 - GAREC 2013, Zürich
 28 to 30 - Ham Radio 2013, Friedrichshafen;
 Kirkwood Wildlife Festival, Kirkwood
 29 and 30 - Christmas in die winter, Tulbagh
 27 June to 7 July - National Arts Festival, Grahamstown
 28 June to 7 July - Oyster Festival, Knysna
 29 June to 2 July - Dr. Livingstone's Bicentenary Fishing Competition, Livingstone, Zambia

July

5 to 7 - Dullstroom Winter Festival
 6 - Durban July Horse race
 to 7 July - Oyster Festival, Knysna; National Arts Festival, Grahamstown
 9 - Beginning of Ramadan
 12 and 13 - Castle Lager Eastern Cape Biltong Festival, Somerset East
 13 and 14 - IARU HF Championships <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>
 ; Franschhoek Bastille Festival
 15 - All schools open
 19 - Washy Ultra Marathon, Port Alfred to East London
 20 - Winter QRP Contest
 27 - Radio Technology in Action, Port Elizabeth
 27 and 28 - RSGB Islands on the Air Contest <http://www.rsgbcc/hf/iota.shtml>

HAM RADIO

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
 Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iau.org www.iau-r1.org

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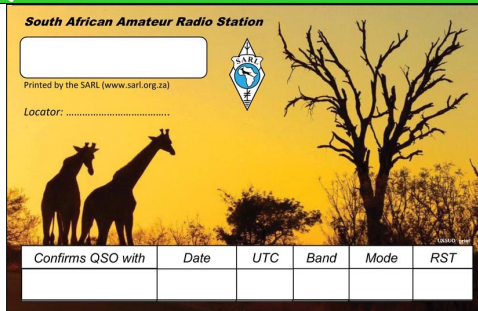
June 2013

SARL Member QSL Cards

The South African Radio League has produced a generic QSL card which you can personalise by writing in your own call sign. The cards are available in batches of 100 at R50 per batch, postage included.

To order, pay the amount for the required number of QSL cards into the SARL bank account - ABSA account no 407 158 8849, branch code 632 005.

Then send details of your delivery address and the proof of payment to Willem, ZS6WWJ at zs6wwj@gmail.com and wait at your post-box for delivery!



More News from ICASA on the 5 Year License

The SARL was informed by ICASA that they have analysed all payments for licenses. Two hundred and nine Radio Amateurs paid R501 in 2012 but did not notify ICASA that they were applying for a 5 years license. This year, 2013, there were 34. ICASA will next week mail five year licenses which will be valid until 2017 and 2018 respectively. Please allow time for the mail system.

The investigation also showed that this year 823 radio amateurs did not renew their licences. These licences will be cancelled and ICASA will make arrangements for the urgent sealing or confiscation of the equipment if payment is not made immediately.

Radio Amateurs are urged to check their own payment records. It is the licence holder's responsibility to pay the annual license fee whether an invoice is received or not. If you have not paid your 2013/2014 license fee, do so without delay. A one year license costs R120. A five year license costs R501. Please indicate if you are paying for a one year or 5 year license. Also include your licence number and your call sign with your payment.

Results ZS4 Sprint

The Contest Committee received 21 logs for the ZS4 Sprint held on 9 June. Fourteen of these logs came from the ZS4 call area - that must be a record!

1st Jan Botha, ZS4JAN - 131 points

2nd Frans Marais, ZS4FM - 102 points and winner of the "Small Antennas for small Spaces" book

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Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at
www.sotawatch.org

And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk



Have **YOU** done
anything today
to Promote
Amateur Radio?

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3rd Welkom Radio Club, ZS4WRC - 98 operated by Ian Sparrius, ZS4IAN

4th Bloemfontein ARC, ZS4BFN - 91 operated by Dennis Green, ZS4BS

5th Brendon Muller, ZS4BM, and Johann van Zijl, ZS4DZ - 86 points

7th Frans Otto, ZS4FP - 81

8th Christopher van Rensburg, ZS3R - 76

9th Warren Reilly, ZS4W and Mitchel Mynhardt - 70 points

11th Pam Momberg, ZS6APT - 62 points

12th Vrystaat Radioklub, ZS4B - 60 operated by Charl Britz, ZS4ATZ

13th Jenni-Lynn Reilly, ZS4J - 59 points

14th Sasolburg Radioklub, ZS4SRK - 56 operated by Hester Le Roux, ZS6PY

15th Stanley Schimper, ZS4TRA - 52 points

16th Pravin Kumar, ZS5LT - 50 points

17th Dawn Snyders, ZS5ME - 48 points

18th Phillip Verster, ZS1DV - 42 points

19th Stephen Stuttard, ZS6SKY - 38 points

20th Peet Pretorius, ZS4VP - 28 points

21st Riaan Greeff, ZS4PR - 13 points

Hamnet Winter Challenge

The Hamnet winter Challenge is this year a national event. It will be held from 12:00 CAT on Saturday 3 August till 12:00 CAT on Sunday 4 August. One of the frequencies to be used is 5 260 kHz. It should be noted that only Hamnet teams may participate. Others who are monitoring the frequency are encouraged to log all the activity and send the log to propresearch@sarl.org.za as input to the propagation research project.

Hamnet groups who would like to participate should send the following information to the exercise co-ordinator, Pierre Tromp, ZS1HF, zs1hf@hamcity.co.za not later than close of business Friday 19 July 2013:

- Intended location (name and co-ordinates or 6-letter grid square)
- Name of team
- Full names and call signs of participants (preliminary list for entry, changes to be sent through to the exercise co-ordinator before the exercise)
- Indication of which team members are NOT Hamnet members, if any
- Which of the exercise channels you intend operating on

The exercise co-ordinator may veto your entry if your chosen location is too close to another team or one of the recognised Emcomm centres. Those who enter earlier have a better chance to be granted their choice of location. Since there is significant preparation required once the list of teams is known, no late entries can be accepted. Final instructions, including the messages required to be transmitted, the locations of the other teams and the channels they intend using, will be sent to all teams during the week before the exercise.

IARU HF Championships

The South African Radio League will be participating in the HF championship on 13 and 14 July from the National Amateur Radio Centre. ICASA has approved the special call sign ZS9HQ for the two-day event.

Phone and CW operators are needed. Call Geoff, ZS6GRL, on 082 546 5546 or send him an email to contest@sarl.org.za to offer your participation.

ZS9HQ will give out a RS or RST report and SARL. Dennis, ZS4BS, will give out a RS report and R1. Other stations give a RS or RST report and 57 (our ITU zone number.) <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>



Rampersad Haribhai
Spoonilal V Muckerjee

FCC Licence Session in Pretoria

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the agency that regulates the radio frequency spectrum in the USA, issues amateur radio licences to residents and non-residents alike. An American licence is useful for reciprocal licences in many countries that do not have a reciprocal agreement with South Africa.

The crew of the C82DX DXpedition in October includes the required three Volunteer Examiners, providing an opportunity to conduct a licence exam session. If there is enough interest, a session will be scheduled in the Pretoria area in mid-October.

There are three licence classes: Technician, General and Extra. A candidate can sit all three exams in one session. Each examination consists of technical and regulation questions applicable to the respective licence class. A candidate can take one, two or three exams depending on the licence class required. For a General class licence, the applicant must pass both the Technician and General exams. For an Extra licence, all three exams are required. It will also be possible to upgrade existing licences at the session. The examination fee is US\$ 15 for all candidates.

Several vendors, including the ARRL, provide suitable study material. An existing South African licence holder should have no difficulty mastering the material.

If you are interested, please contact Tjerk Lammers, ZS6P, or Chris Burger, ZS6EZ, by email. Schedule and venue information will be circulated to all participants.

SARL Winter QRP Contest

These QRP contests are intended to be fun activities to promote QRP operation between radio amateurs in Southern Africa. Using homebuilt equipment or operating as a portable / field station and using temporary antennas is encouraged, but is not a requirement.

The Winter QRP Contest takes place from 12:00 UTC to 15:00 UTC (14:00 to 17:00 CAT) on Saturday 20 July 2013. Home or field stations are welcome to participate using SSB, CW or mixed (SSB/CW) with 5 watts (PEP) output or less and a station may be contacted once per mode.

The first hour is limited to the 40 m band only, the remaining two hours the contesters are free to use any HF (non-WARC) band as they see fit. Comply with the contest preferred segments as detailed in the general rules. It would be advantageous to use the standard QRP calling frequencies as the starting point.

The exchange is a RS or RST and Grid locator. Please consider exchanging realistic RS(T) signal reports. Please use the full 6 character grid locator. e.g. KG43eu. If the station's grid locator is unknown, then use some other means that identifies the station's location: E.g. the name of the closest town or city e.g. Greyton (Western Cape), or 25 km NW of Kathu. With DX contacts the locator information can be omitted, the RS(T) will suffice as the minimum required exchange as per the general rules

Each contact counts 1 point. Prefix/DXCC multiplier - each South African call area 1 to 9 counts as a multiplier and each DXCC country worked counts as a multiplier.

Station type multiplier - x 1 - for Home stations; x 2 - for Portable stations or x 3 - for ultra light portable field station. The definitions listed in the general section of the SARL rules define the above stations types accurately. A mobile station will be treated as a field station. A portable station not meeting the requirements as a field station will be treated as a home station.

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Ultra light portable field station must comply with all the field station criteria, but the entire station, antenna included, must be carried by the operator to the operating site. The distance carried must not be less than 1 km.

Score = (QSO points) x (No of prefixes worked) x (Station multiplier)

Log returns. E-mailed logs submitted in electronic form will be appreciated. In order of preference the following formats are requested:

Using the provided Excel worksheet (available on SARL forum or direct from the contest manager)

Send the logs in a text readable format i.e. Excel worksheet, ADIF or Cabrillo format.

In all cases please fill out the normal minimum data fields: Date, Time, Call sign of station worked, Mode, RS(T) sent, Exchange sent, RS(T) received, Exchange received and optionally a Comment field.

If the logging program does not have a field for "contest exchange" or the alternative contest exchange is too long and does not fit in the provided entry field, then log that exchange info in the comment field.

Logs shall be submitted within 7 days after the contest by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za

African DX



No, it is not 'put a tiger in your tank'!

Senegal, 6V. Vlad, RK4FF, reactivates 6V7S once more from Le Calao Resort, Thies region, Senegal, during the following dates in 2013: 1 to 16 July and 22 October to 27 November. He will be active from 1 to 16 July on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via RK4FF.

Ghana, 9G. Hans, PB2T, will put 9G5AA on the air once again between 2 and 7 July during his spare time. He will be active on HF on all modes. QSL via PB2T.

Rwanda, 9X. Herman, DL2NUD, and Rene, PE1L will concentrate their efforts on EME operation from Rwanda on 144, 432, 1 296 and 2 304 MHz. But they also want to operate a bit on HF and 6 m. Calls to be used are 9X0EME, 9X0HP, 9X0L and 9X0MB. QSLs via PE1L, direct only. <http://www.emelogger.com/rwanda> and <https://twitter.com/AtleticoBiqL>

Ivory Coast, TU. Dim, F5SWB (ex TL8DF, TT8DF, 9X5DF, TR8DF, 6W1SA) is active as TU5DF from Port-Bouet, Abidjan from the end of June until October 2013. He will be active on 40 to 10 m (6 m), mainly CW with some SSB and PSK31. Logs will be uploaded to ClubLog. QSL via F5SWB.

Rwanda, 9X. Alan, G3XAQ, and Nick, G3RWF, will be active in the CQ WW DX CW Contest, 23 and 24 November, from the outskirts of Kigali (WW Loc KI47ts), Rwanda, as 9X0XA and 9X0NH, respectively. They plan on two Single-Op/Single-Band/Low-Power entries. QSL for both calls via G3SWH, OQRS preferred.

The Country (CTY) Files were updated on 25 June 2013, visit <http://www.country-files.com/cty-2307-25-june-2013/>. To install the file, follow the link to your software at the top of the page. Note that the release notes (and Version Entity) for this larger file are different than what is shown below. There is a separate link to them.



Contest Calendar

SKCC Sprint
 00:00 UTC-02:00 UTC 26 June
 Mode: CW
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: RST and Name and state, province or country and SKCC no or power
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band; 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call, K9SKC, per band
 Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
 Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
 Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 30 June 2013
 E-mail log summary to: (none)
 Post log summary at:
<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/sks-submit.html>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at:
<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>

CWops Mini-CWT Test
 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 26 June and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 27 June
 Mode: CW
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
 Max power: HP: >100 watts
 LP: 100 watts
 QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
 Multipliers: Each call once
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 29 June 2013

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

NCCC RTTY Sprint
 01:30 - 02:00 UTC 28 June
 Mode: RTTY
 Bands: (see rules)
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: (see rules)
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 30 June 2013
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com/>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

Feld Hell Sprint
 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 29 June
 Mode: Feld Hell
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: (none)
 Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: (see rules)
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: (see rules)
 Bonus Points: (see rules)
 Multipliers: (see rules)
 Score Calculation: (see rules)
 Submit logs by: 6 July 2013
 E-mail logs to: kj8o@wowway.com
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprint-rules>

RAC Canada Day Contest
 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 1 July
 Mode: CW, Phone
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m
 Classes: Single Op All Band - low or high; Single Op All Band CW; Single Op All Band Phone; Single Op QRP; Single Op Single Band; Single Op Single Band

(Continued on page 6)

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 24 June to 1 July 2013



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QRP; Multi-Single - low or high; Multi-Multi

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: VE: RS(T) and province or territory; non-VE: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with non-VE stations; 10 points per QSO with VE stations; 20 points per QSO with RAC stations

Multipliers: Each VE province/territory once per band per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 July 2013

E-mail logs to: canadaday@rac.ca

Mail logs to: Radio Amateurs of Canada, 720 Belfast Road, Suite 217, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 0Z5, Canada

Find rules at: <https://www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests/files/2013%20Canada%20Day%20Rules%20and%20Entry%20Form%20-%20English-French.pdf>

10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party

00:01 UTC 1 July to 24:00 UTC 7 July

Mode: CW, SSB, PSK31, RTTY, FM, AM

Bands: 10 m Only

Classes: Individual; Club; QRP

Max power: non-QRP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: 10-10 Member: Name, 10-10 number and state, province or country; Non-Member: Name, 0 and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with a non-member; 2 points per QSO with a 10-10 member

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 22 July 2013

E-mail logs to: tentencontest@roadrunner.com

Mail logs to: Dan Morris, KZ3T, 3162 Covington Way, Lenoir, NC 28645, USA

Find rules at: <http://ten-ten.org/Forms/spirit.pdf>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW

19:00 - 20:30 UTC 1 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 8 July 2013

Upload log at: <http://www.rsqbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.rsqbcc.org/hf/rules/2013/r80mcc.shtml>

Next Week's Contest

10-10 Int. Spirit of 76 QSO Party, 00:01 UTC 1 July to 24:00 UTC 7 July

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 2 July

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 17:00 - 18:00 UTC (CW); 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (SSB); 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (FM); 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 4 July (Dig)

MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint, 23:00 UTC 4 July to 03:00 UTC 5 July

Venezuelan Independence Day Contest, 00:00 UTC 6 July to 23:59 UTC 7 July

DL-DX RTTY Contest, 11:00 UTC 6 July to 10:59 UTC 7 July

Original QRP Contest, 15:00 UTC 6 July to 15:00 UTC 7 July

PODXS 070 Club 40 m Firecracker Sprint, 20:00 local 6 July to 02:00 local 7 July

DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest, 11:00 - 17:00 UTC 7 July

Cell phones: an in-flight danger?

Media 24, Cape Town - Human nature means we always want convenience - which makes having cellular connectivity an ideal service for passengers.

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Yes, local low-cost operator Mango offers this luxury, but thanks to G-Connect technologies that enable it, as well as make it safe.

The safety issue of leaving your cell phone on during a flight has always had tongues wagging - and now a Travelstart survey confirms that up to 15 passengers leave their phones on during any given flight. The survey polled some 7 600 South African travellers, of which around 3% said they never turned their phones off during a flight, despite being asked to by cabin crew.

Interestingly, this contrasted with Namibian survey participants where not 1 respondent said they left their phone on during a flight. That being said, nearly a fifth of respondents said they believed that nothing would go wrong if they left their phones on.

This begs the question, with hundreds of flights taking off and landing safely every day within South Africa alone, is leaving your phone on during a flight really that dangerous?

This was a question posed by US-based news site, The Huffington Post earlier this year to a number of travel experts, including pilots and travel editors. The consensus seemed to indicate that this was a rule put in place at an earlier time when the science behind cellular communications was less understood.

One of the experts was commercial pilot and Executive Travel columnist Chris Cook who explained that he had never experienced any interference from mobile phones on flights he had piloted. This feedback was contrasted by a response to the same question on online Q&A site, Quora where chief pilot and flight instructor at The Flight Academy, John Fiscus reports having had cell phones interrupt his communications on several occasions. These interruptions, he reports, are little more than buzzing noises on his headset meaning pilots can misunderstand instructions from control towers, rather than a complete communications black-out.

Either way, when a plane is about to land, any misunderstanding can be fatal. American news channel ABC News managed to get their hands on an IATA (International Air Transport Association) report stating that there had been 75 documented reports since 2003 of "possible electronic interference" which crew believed to be attributed to devices like cell-phones and tablets. Unfortunately no scientific study has ever been conducted to verify the likelihood of this. The other danger is that electronic devices pose a major distraction to passengers who are meant to pay attention to the safety announcements. In the event of accidents there is often precious little time for cabin crew to repeat instructions, meaning full attention from passengers is imperative.

Unfortunately, the verdict is inconclusive and with no one willing to put their heads on the proverbial chopping block about this, civil aviation authorities look certain to continue playing it safe and ruling that electronic devices remain off during take-off and landing. That being said, it also seems certain that there will continue to be those who refuse to abide by the rules.

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend grows each year

The biggest and arguably the world's first fun-filled event for portable amateur radio stations is the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend in August.

It is still going very strongly and now in its 16th year of attracting lots of activations around the globe.

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HF Happenings

HF Happenings-
subscribe@yahoo.com



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The ILLW has been joined by weekends for other structures. Now there is one for historic bridges. We wish them all well.

However, the founding International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend is set for another good year with registrations flowing in steadily at 285, from more than 30 countries.

It continues to promote public awareness of the old marine navigation and the need for preservation and restoration, promotes amateur radio and fosters international goodwill.

For more details on the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend on 17 and 18 August, visit the website www.illw.net

Special call sign PD62RIEU is currently active until 14 July 2013 in connection with the Andre Rieu open air concerts on the Vrijthof in his home town of Maastricht. active on 40, 20 and 10 metres using SSB and PSK. QSL direct or bureau, via PD3R. If you send direct please enclose SASE.

Alex, MM0OXX, organises GBOPOS (Power of Steam) together with members of the Stirling and District Amateur Radio Society to celebrate 85 years of the steam train 246 Morayshire, where it is still running fine today. The special event station will be operated from Bo'ness & Kinneil railway, www.bkrailway.co.uk/, on 29 and 30 June 2013 and again on 14 and 15 September 2013. QSL direct (from stations outside of the UK): send your cards to MM0VUV with \$2 and self addressed envelope: if in the UK then send a S.A.E. with a UK 2nd class stamp affixed to it. Bureau cards must only go to GBOPOS via the bureau. Website www.qrz.com/db/GBOPOS

Andrew, SP8MMW, is on the air with the call HF69AK until 31 July 2013 to commemorate the Battle of Osuchy 69 years ago. QSL via SP8MMW (QRZ.com).

History This Week for the week starting 24 June

- 1498 - The bristle toothbrush was invented in China.
- 1797 - Charles Newbold patents first cast-iron plow. He can't sell it to farmers, though, they fear effects of iron on the soil!
- 1844 - Goodyear patents vulcanisation of rubber.
- 1847 - New York and Boston linked by telegraph wires
- 1847 - First US postage stamps go on sale, 5c Franklin and 10c Washington
- 1919 - First advanced monoplane airliner flight, Junkers F13
- 1929 - First colour TV demo - New York City
- 1936 - Empire State Building emanates high definition TV-343 lines
- 1948 - Transistor as a substitute for Radio tubes announced (Bell Labs)
- 1963 - First demonstration of home video recorder, at BBC Studios, London

What ever happened to HF Happenings 558?

Who noticed there was no HF Happenings 558? Only Richard, ZS6UK, noticed that the editor chappie missed a number between 557 and 559!

The rest of you each win a weekend for two in a chopper tent on the Gen de Wet Training area - transport, meals, drinks and anything else for your own pocket. Next time it will be 40 lashes and keelhauling while being forced to listening to "Op n trein na Pretoria" sung in Morse Code!

To make up, the editor chappie did issued 559, 559½, 560, 561 and now 562.

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newslines, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC News